

farm value of wheat and corn per acre for 1893 in the United States, as shown by the government report just made, was: Wheat, \$6.16; corn, \$8.21, which shows a virtual loss to the farmer of \$5.53 per acre of wheat and \$3.50 per acre of corn. The value of straw and corn fodder is not included in these figures.

There can be no other cause than the increased purchasing power of gold by reason of closing the mints in 1873 to the coinage of silver as standard money.

Free coinage in the United States will not flood this country with foreign silver, as is so often predicted. The European nations will not send to us the bullion of silver which they now use at a ratio of 15½ to 1 as standard money, to be coined here at the ratio of 16 to 1, which would involve an enormous loss in the ratio, besides cost of transportation.

Nor is there any danger that over-production of silver will cause it to depreciate in value. If free coinage should prevail and silver be restored to the privileges, now given to gold, the two metals would circulate on a parity, and their value would be automatically fixed under laws which never fail in their action. If silver, from any cause, should depreciate, the debtor would, of course, make payment in silver, and the demand thus created would enhance its value until a parity with gold was reached.

It is, after all, a question of legislation, and I protest against the United States continuing a policy which increases the burdens of the laboring and debtor classes in order to increase the incomes of the rich. This great republic, founded on justice and equality, should stand firmly for bimetalism. If other nations will agree with us on a ratio between the two metals it would avoid much embarrassment, but, in any event, the democratic party should never waver in its opposition to the single gold standard. We are great enough and strong enough to lead, and not follow in the struggle against financial slavery now agitating the world.

Notwithstanding the assertions, so often made that the production of gold is increasing and that there is no danger of a gold famine, the constant drain upon the gold reserved in our national treasury for export contradicts these statements. England protects her gold reserve by increasing the rate of interest in the bank of England so as to check exportation, and the bank of France refuses to pay out gold for export, but our treasury is at the mercy of every foreign power and of every money speculator.

#### A Confusing Philadelphia Name.

The Argonaut says that when Lord Randolph Churchill was in America he visited Philadelphia; and, while collecting statistics relating to the state prison of Pennsylvania, he was referred

to the head of the state prison board, Cadwallader Biddle. Before calling upon Mr. Biddle, however, Lord Randolph fell into the hands of some wags of the Union League club. "You've got the name wrong," said one of these merry jesters; "it's not Cadwallader Biddle, but Bidcallader Waddle." "Don't mind what he says, Lord Randolph," exclaimed another, the real name is Wadbillader Caddle." A third member took the ex-chancellor of the exchequer aside and imparted to him in confidence that he was being gulled on all sides. "What, then is the actual name of the prisons board chief?" anxiously asked the noble lord. "The actual name," continued his false friend, "is Didbollader Widdle." And when Lord Randolph drove to the prisons board that evening he was so upset that he stammered: "Will you take this card to Mr. Bid-cad-wid-wad-did-dollader what's his name?—I mean the chief of the board, but I forget his extraordinary nomenclatural combination."

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